WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 *SUB A2*

1.   A visitor information gathering apparatus, comprising:

2   a display;

3   at least one of a plurality of input devices;

4   a storage;

5   a processor; and

6   at least one of a plurality of sensors, wherein

7   said processor gathers information about visitors from said at least one of a

8   plurality of input devices from responses made by said visitors to prompts provided by said

9   processor through said display; and wherein said processor substantially contemporaneously

10   gathers information about said visitors from said at least one of a plurality of sensors; and

11   wherein said processor stores said information about visitors into said storage.

1   2.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said information about said visitors

2   is gathered from said at least one of a plurality of sensors without said visitor being aware of

3   said gathering.

1   3.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a music playing device,

2   wherein said processor controls playing of music to said visitors.

1   4.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said information about visitors is at

2   least one of a name, an organization represented by a visitor, a purpose of a visit, a date of a

3   visit, a time of a visit, a person to be visited, an identity of a group of visitors visiting

4   together.

1   5.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor displays on said

2   display at least one of a greeting, a slide show of product images, advertising, stock values,

3   daily cartoons, and news.

1   6.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a scanner that scans at

2   least one of a first side and a second side of a business card having printing on at least one of

3   said first side and said second side; and wherein, responsive to detecting text on said at least

4   one of said first side and said second side, said processor processes said text in accordance

5   with a language of said text.

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1   7.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a microphone, wherein

2   said microphone provides input of speech of said visitors.

1   8.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a video camera, wherein

2   said video camera provides input of images of said visitors.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a speaker, wherein said

2   speaker provides directions to said visitor.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a plurality

2   of visitor wands, said visitor wands recording experiences of said visitors.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising biometric sensors, said

2   biometric sensors recording biometric information about said visitor.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a handwriting tablet, said

2   handwriting tablet providing a sample of handwriting of said visitors.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security sensors, said

2   security sensors providing information about potential threats.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a telephone interface, said

2   telephone interface providing a telephone message to a person to be visited that said visitors

3   have arrived.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a web interface, said web

2   interface providing a readily accessible source of information gathered about said visitors.

1   16.   A method for collecting information about visitors, said method

2   comprising:

3   gathering information about said visitors in an interactive session with an

4   automated kiosk;

5   placing said information into a format in which said information may be

6   stored;

7   storing said information for retrieval; and

8   automatically obtaining information about said visitor from at least one of a

9   plurality of sources.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein gathering information about said

2 visitors at said automated kiosk comprises obtaining information from said visitor using a

3 process of which said visitor is aware (conscious capture) and obtaining information about

4 said visitor using a process of which said visitor is not aware (unconscious capture).

1   18.   The method of claim 16, further comprising:

2   providing said information about said visitor and said information gathered at

3 said kiosk to at least one of a plurality of other users of said information.

1   19.   The method of claim 16, wherein obtaining information about said

2 visitor from a plurality of sources comprises at least one of performing a search on the

3 Internet, searching a publicly available database, searching a database of visitor information

4 obtained from said automated kiosk, and searching a local document database.

1   20.   A system for tracking activity within a facility, said system

2 comprising:

3   a plurality of locator apparatuses;

4   a network, interconnecting said plurality of locator apparatuses; and

5   at least one of a plurality of portable visitor wands; wherein,

6   said at least one of a plurality of portable visitor wands communicates an

7 identity to at least one of said plurality of locator apparatuses; and wherein said at least one of

8 said plurality of locator apparatuses track position of a visitor based upon said communicated

9 identities.

1   21.   The system of claim 20, wherein said communication is performed by

2 at least one selected from an infrared communication link, a radio communication link, an

3 optical communication link, sensing a magnetic card, a telephone communication link, a

4 pager communication link, and a Bluetooth^{TM} communication link.

1   22.   The system of claim 20, wherein said locator apparatuses are further

2 operative to provide a history of visitors to at least one of said locator apparatuses.

1   23.   The system of claim 20, wherein said locator apparatuses are further

2 operative to provide a history of locator apparatuses visited by a particular visitor.

24.   A computer programming product for collecting information about

2   visitors, said computer programming product comprising:

3   code for gathering information about said visitors in an interactive session

4   with an automated kiosk;

5   code for placing said information into a format in which said information may

6   be stored;

7   code for storing said information for retrieval;

8   code for obtaining information about said visitor from at least one of a

9   plurality of sources;

10   code for providing said information about said visitor and said information

11 gathered at said kiosk to persons interested in said information; and

12   a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1   25.   An apparatus for automatically populating a database, said apparatus

2   comprising:

3   a display;

4   at least one of a plurality of input devices;

5   a storage; and

6   a processor; wherein

7   said processor captures information from said at least one of a plurality of

8   input devices, said information entered responsive to prompts provided by said processor

9   through said display; and wherein said processor stores said information about visitors into

10 said storage.

1   26.   An apparatus of claim 25, wherein said information comprises

2   personnel information about at least one of a plurality of employees, said storage further

3   comprising a database for storing said personnel information.

1   27.   An apparatus of claim 25, further comprising at least one of a plurality

2   of sensory devices, said sensory devices operative to provide additional information which is

3   incorporated into said personnel database, said additional information associated with said

4   personnel information by at least one of a plurality of linkages.

1   28.   An apparatus of claim 27, wherein said additional information

2   comprises at least one of an image, a time of entering said personnel information.

1   29.   An apparatus of claim 25, further comprising using said personnel

2 information to annotate documents.

1   30.   An apparatus of claim 29, wherein using said personnel information to

2 annotate documents further comprises replacing at least one of a plurality of names with

3 hypertext links to said personnel information.

1   31.   A method for providing an image, said method comprising:

2   automatically capturing at least one of a plurality of images of a person;

3   providing to said person said at least one of a plurality of images; and

4   receiving from said person an indication of a preferred image, said preferred

5 image selected from among said at least one of a plurality of images.

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